

# Species

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# Monkey puzzle butterfly *Rathinda amor* (Fabricius, 1775) first record from Kanha Tiger Reserve Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India

Anil Sarsavan, Manohar Pawar\*

## ABSTRACT

Monkey puzzle (*Rathinda amor*) butterfly is reported from Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla district for the first time and is a new addition in the fauna of Madhya Pradesh State.

**Keywords:** Monkey puzzle butterfly, First state record, Madhya Pradesh.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

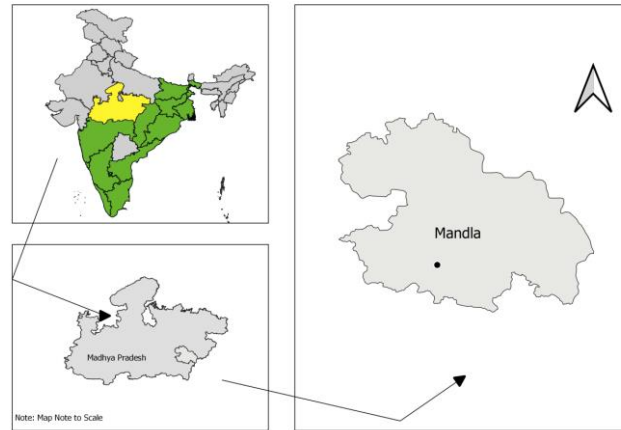
So far 153 butterfly species belonging to 7 families have been recorded from Madhya Pradesh (Chandra et al., 2007). The butterfly genus *Rathinda* belongs to the Lycaenidae family. From this genus, only one species, *Rathinda amor* has been reported from South Asia (Kunte et al., 2022) Monkey puzzle butterfly was previously known from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in India (Masroor et al., 2022). Examination of published scientific literature reveals that so far this species has not been recorded from the state of Madhya Pradesh (Chandra et al., 2007; Tiple, 2012; Dhamorikar & Gore, 2015; David & Surya, 2017; Flora et al., 2020, Agase et al., 2022). Recently Monkey puzzle butterfly was sighted at Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla Madhya Pradesh, which represents the first state record.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

A random butterfly survey was conducted on Mandla-Anjaniya road on 6 September 2022 (1000- 1030 hours), during which a butterfly was seen and its photographs were taken. Later it was identified as the *Rathinda amor*. This butterfly is a new record for the state of Madhya Pradesh which we observed on the outskirts of Kurwahi village, about 25 km from Mandla (Figure 1).

This area comes under dry deciduae forest Champion and Seth's, (1968). The area is dominated by bushes and *Lantana camara*, *Carissa spinarum* and *Eupatorium odoratissima* are the main shrub species. Tree height up to 5-8 meter and dominant

tree species are *Terminalia elliptica*, *Boswellia serrate*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Madhuca indica* etc.



**Figure 1** Occurrence locality of *Rathinda amor* in Mandla District of Madhya Pradesh.

### 3. RESULTS

*Rathinda Amor* is the first state record for from Madhya Pradesh. According the literature review this *Rathinda amor* has been only single species reported from South Asia (Kunte, 2022). On a branch of *Eupatorium odoratissima*, only one adult specimen was observed. Images captured during observation were used to confirm identification using identification key (Kunte, 2020 and Anonymous, 2013). The plants used by this species for nectar and larval host plants in the region are still unknown and further research is needed.



**Figure 2** Photograph of adult Monkey puzzle butterfly (*Rathinda amor*) recorded on 6 September 2022 in Kanha Tiger Reserve, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh

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#### Ethical approval

Monkey puzzle butterfly *Rathinda amor* (Fabricius, 1775) was recorded from Kanha Tiger Reserve Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India. The animal ethical guidelines are followed in the study for species identification.

#### Informed consent

Not applicable.

**Conflicts of interests**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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**Data and materials availability**

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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